

Dear Mayor Hays:

I am pleased to advise that the Secretary of the Navy has selected the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum to acquire the harbor tug ex-HOGA (YT 146) for use as a memorial and museum. You and all members of your team worked extremely hard to develop a comprehensive donation application. It was only possible to reach this decision after a detailed evaluation of all financial, technical and curatorial areas in each application.

As you know, ex-HOGA's availability for donation generated competing requests from organizations in several cities, such as, Honolulu, Hawaii; Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; San Francisco, California; (and) Hollywood, Florida. After careful assessment, the Secretary of the Navy determined that it was in the Nation's best interest to place ex-HOGA on public display at North Little Rock. In accordance with the donation statute (10 USC 3706), the Secretary will notify Congress of this proposed donation. 30 days of continuous session of Congress must expire before the Secretary may transfer the vessel and finalize the donation contract.

Thank you and the citizens of Arkansas for your sustained efforts on behalf of the historic harbor tug ex-HOGA. As always, if I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

SIGNED:

Capt. L.M. Jones, Jr.

March 25, 2004

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